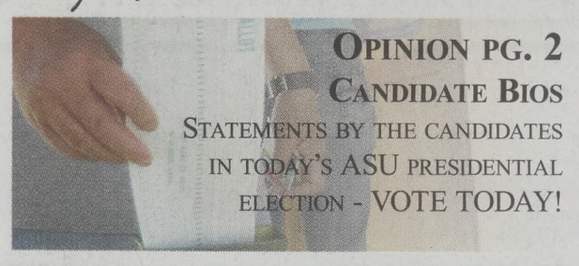
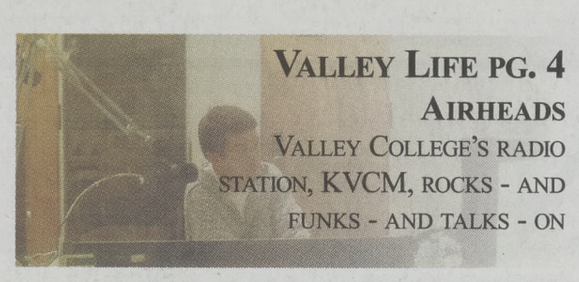
5-25-05



OPINION PG. 2
CANDIDATE BIOS
STATEMENTS BY THE CANDIDATES IN TODAY'S ASU PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - VOTE TODAY!



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
AIRHEADS
VALLEY COLLEGE'S RADIO STATION, KVCM, ROCKS - AND FUNKS - AND TALKS - ON



SPORTS PG. 6
SEASON WRAP UP
THE BEST OF THE YEAR IN VALLEY SPORTS



SPORTS PG. 6
NINFO MANIAC
MONARCH SECOND BASEMAN OVERCOMES INJURY TO HELP LEAD TEAM

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WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 63, ISSUE NO. 10 | MAY 25, 2005 | *HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!*

New ASU Prez Election Today

■ Hastily called presidential election to settle unfinished business already causing controversy.

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO AND LAGINA PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITERS

Students at Valley College get a second chance to decide next year's ASU president this week, but it looks like the troubles that plagued the first elections are resurfacing.

"We want to make sure the election represents the voice of the students," said Tino Manzano, vice president of student services. "We want to run this process fairly."

ASU Adviser Sherri Rodriguez used an executive rule to overturn the Election Committee's decision to disqualify Chavez and Martirosyan and appoint Park president, paving the way for today's election. Martirosyan appealed Rodriguez's decision to Manzano.

The ASU scheduled its supplemental election for Tuesday and today to resolve the complaints from the first election held last month. Today's candidates include Adam Park, Olivia Njuki and Nelli Martirosyan.

However, there are already new complaints pending against Martirosyan. Among them, student Joenaphan Jones said there was a "Vote for Nelli" campaign flier on his car in Lot E, a violation of Election Code Section 7, Article N.

Complaints are not considered official until evidence is submitted with the written statement. Jones claims to have digital photos of the violation, which he must submit within 24 hours to make it official.

Martirosyan denied the charges, saying, "I haven't put any of my [campaign materials] on any cars. I know better than that."

Martirosyan, the top finisher in the first election, decided to run again after the Election Committee disqualified her for violating campaign rules. Runner-up Theresa Chavez, who was similarly disqualified, decided not to run in the second election.

The conflict between the Election Committee and the adviser led to the resignation of members Jason Henderson and Jessie Salas. Henderson has since returned, making a quorum. The committee now consists of Henderson, Julie Cuna and Chair Ron Cabrera.

The four candidates in the first election were Martirosyan, who would have won the election with 322 votes, Chavez who came in second with 171 votes, Park, who came in third with 78 votes and was briefly appointed president, and Olivia Njuki, who received fewer than 30 votes.

ASU ELECTION TODAY
MONARCH SQUARE // 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M. - 7 P.M.
RESULTS WILL BE POSTED AT WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM
STATEMENTS BY THE CANDIDATES IN OPINION // PAGE 2



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR
OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE - Dancer and choreographer Milva Rinaldelli performs during the Bodies Moving Spring Dance Production at Valley's Mainstage Theatre on Saturday night. *See story, page 4.*

IN MEMORIAM



DEBBIE FOGEL / SPECIAL TO THE STAR
REMEMBERING THE FALLEN - Paula Fogel places a rose on the tombstone of her grandfather, who fought in World War I. More than 400,000 Americans have been killed in major wars since the beginning of the 20th century. Americans will celebrate Memorial Day on May 30.

"Soldiers' Stories" Told in Numbers

■ Event at Valley Cities Jewish Community Center lets veterans and veterans' mothers call for end to Iraq war.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The signs on the wall told the story: "1,717." "12,516."

Nameless, faceless statistics – official body counts from the war in Iraq. The first number represented Americans killed including civilian employees as of May 21; the second number was American wounded.

"I wanted you to be able to put a name and a face to coffin number 1306," Vicky Castro said as she placed two photos of her son onstage — one of a small boy at play and the other of a soldier who would have turned 22 this week. They were pictures of her son, Corp. Jonathan Castro.

More than 100 people came to the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center across the street from Valley College for an evening of "Soldiers' Stories." Sponsored by Neighbors for Peace and Justice San Fernando Valley, the program opened with the band Playing in Traffic singing original and classic anthems for peace.

The peace-activist musicians came together the same way NPJ-SFV did, meeting on the corner of Ventura Blvd. and Laurel Canyon on Friday nights, carrying signs and speaking out for peace. The group has been meeting every week since September 2001 when the first threats of war were felt—at the start of the Iraq war they held a special vigil.

NPJ-SFV co-founder Steve Fine, whose son is a Valley student, said the evening's focus was on the immediate situation: "Stop this war and bring the troops home."

Vicky Castro teaches math at Centinella High School, in Corona; the same school Jonathan graduated from in 2001. He was killed on Dec. 21, 2004, in the infamous suicide bombing in a dining hall at an American military base in Mosul. She became a member of Goldstar Families for Peace, an organization founded by mothers whose children have lost their lives in Iraq.

"We don't want any more members," said Castro.

The audience was composed of about 125 parents, students and seniors, including veterans of wars dating back to World War II.

Six panel members from various veterans' and peace-related organizations spoke out against the war in Iraq.

One speaker not affiliated with a group, veteran Harvey Glen, softly said he wanted to talk from his heart about his experiences in Vietnam.

"I'm trying to describe a feeling here," Glen said of the grueling conditions and the horrific acts of violence that he witnessed firsthand. "Scary—not real, it seems like you're in a dream."

Tim Goodrich said he was a recruiter's dream when he walked into the recruitment office at 18. After his third deployment sent him to Iraq, he began seeing the true cost of war.

"What we're doing over there is a travesty," said Goodrich, co-founder of Iraq Veterans Against War.

During a lively discussion with the audience, a World War II veteran stood up and said he found a way to release some of his frustrations about the current situation every Sunday when he gets The Los Angeles Times. He cuts out the list of this week's soldiers killed in action. "[I] mail it to Mr. Bush or Mr. Rumsfeld."

Vicky Castro said to remem-

see *Soldiers* page 3



SEVAN GHAZARYAN/ VALLEY STAR
FOCUSED ON PEACE - Playing in Traffic performs "peace songs" about bringing soldiers home from Iraq at the Valley Ciies Jewish Community Center on Saturday Night.

FINALS SCHEDULE
PAGE 5

Double Summer Session Returns

BY ANNA GOLDBERG
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2002, Valley College is offering a double summer session, increasing the number of available classes for students.

"I want to take advantage of it," said commercial music major Fernando Charles, 23. "It's a good opportunity for people who need more classes."

The two five-week semesters will offer more than 350 classes between them. The first will run from June 13 through July 17 and the second will be from July 18 through Aug. 21.

"A double summer session can be a good opportunity for Valley College students, particularly for students who are transitioning from high school to college, working people and those in four-year universities who like to condense semesters," said Richard Pfefferman, Valley's dean of Academic Affairs. "They get to finish in five weeks."

This is not the first time Valley has offered two summer sessions, but lack of funds ended the practice in 2002. According to Pfefferman, increased enrollment in summer may qualify the school to receive additional funding now offered by the state. They anticipate that by offering classes that students need they will accomplish that goal.

But despite the obvious benefits there are still some concerns.

see *Summer* page 5

Helping Survivors Regain Their Voice

■ Valley Trauma Center helps victims of assault.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

A nice, clean, soft pair of sweats at a time when who you are has been violently taken away may seem like a Band-Aid on a gaping wound, but for survivors of rape it can be a beginning to taking back their lives.

"[We make it as] non-traumatic as possible under extreme circumstances," said Jae Weiss, Valley College alumna and Director of Prevention Education at the Valley Trauma Center in Van Nuys. "[We] honor their humanity, [at a time when] they have been stripped of their personhood."

The center, which opened in 1986, offers the only crisis hotlines serving the 1.8 million people of the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys. It is funded through donations, grants (including one from Homeland Security) and events like the April 23 "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" fundraiser, at which more than 200 men slipped into high heels of every shape and height and walked down Ventura Blvd.

"It's a three-fold opportunity," said Frank Baird, founder of the fundraiser and clinical supervisor at the center. "Increase public awareness of the need for the center, invite men to join in the efforts to stop rape, and raise money to support the center's efforts and services."

When the center's hotline gets a call from a forensic nurse, Valley Trauma sends a rape crisis advocate to a hospital designated for sexual assault response teams to be at the side of a rape victim. The advocate is not there as a part of the exam process, but to bring support and to believe and care about the survivor and the family.

see *Valley Trauma* page 4

OPINION

ASU ELECTION: CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

The Valley Star is not offering an endorsement in the impromptu election for ASU president, but solicited statements from each of the candidates to help voters decide. (A third candidate from the original election, Olivia Njuki, did not confirm her continuing candidacy with the ASU until Monday. The Star was not able to reach her to solicit a statement before press time.)

NELLI MARTIROSYAN



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

I was contacted on behalf of The Valley Star [on] May 16, 2005 and offered space to write my platform for the ASU Elections.

For a second, I thought I was in a dream or my memory deteriorated, because I could swear that [the] ASU Elections took place last month on April 19 and 20, 2005.

I was sure that I had a platform and now it was the time to start working on it.

I received 54 percent of the votes cast.

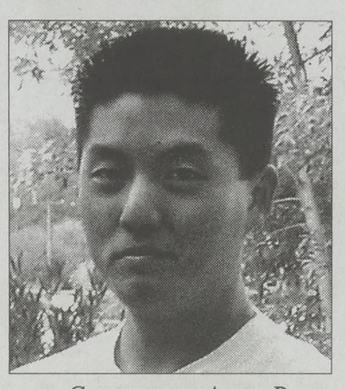
The ASU Constitution's Election Code Section 3 point F clearly states: "To be elected, the candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast for that office. Majority consists of 50 percent +1 of the votes cast."

I am not sure if the Election Committee members know how to read and have any knowledge of basic math.

However, I am sure that Mr. Tino Manzano, the acting Vice President of Student Services, who handles appeals, will make the right decision in regards to this matter.

The majority (54 percent) of the voters trusted me with their votes and it is the ultimate responsibility of all of us to uphold their rights warranted by the constitution and govern ourselves in accordance with our responsibilities.

ADAM PARK



COURTESY OF ADAM PARK

My name is Adam Park and up until two years ago I lived a selfish life.

Then, only when I had lost everything, I came to realize that there was more to life than just myself.

Since then, I have made it a priority to make life better not only for myself but for others as well.

That's why I would like to serve as your next ASU president.

My dedication and experience make me a very qualified presidential candidate.

First, I am an honors student. As a returning student my education is very important to me.

Second, I am a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. I firmly hold onto my beliefs yet I am open to changes.

Third, I am on the Board of Directors for the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, often advising LA City Councilman Tony Cardenas. I am the link that represents over 80,000 people about controversial issues.

Lastly, I manage a very busy family restaurant. This has taught me to set and achieve goals, manage my time, and communicate effectively.

I have the skills, discipline, and determination to be your ASU President. With that, I respectfully ask for your vote. My name is Adam Park, and I'm the right choice for your voice.

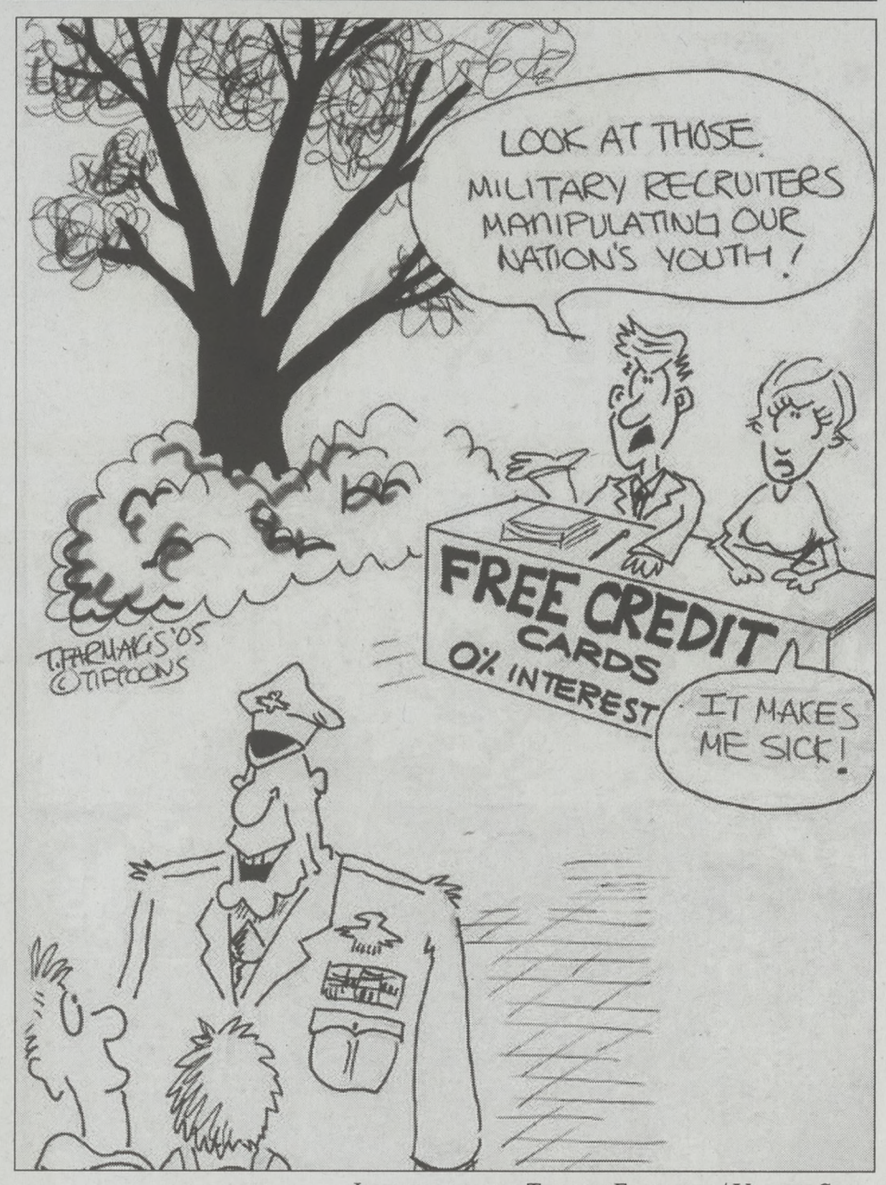


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS

Access Does Not Equal Intelligence

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
MANAGING EDITOR

Not too long ago, I was subjected to an hour-long diatribe from my boss about the marvels of a degree from a four-year university. That is, one earned by attending all four years at the university as opposed to one finished after transferring from a community college.

He actually insinuated that the blessed four-year attendees are smarter than lowly community college transfer students. He insinuated that these individuals are better suited to fill the executive positions in the business world and that less-fortunate community college attendees should look to them for guidance and knowledge.

I was absolutely appalled.

Many community college students possess the drive, ambition and desire to become as, or even more successful than, their four-year university counterparts.

Just look at NASA pilot Eileen Collins. Or former Texas Supreme Court Justice Robert Gammage. Or two-time Oscar winner Kevin Spacey, a Valley College alum. These are just three of the wildly successful individuals who began their academic careers at community colleges.

The one thing many community college students lack is the opportunity to enroll directly into the university. Does this make them less intelligent?

Absolutely not.

They instead have to work hard, maintain good grades and then try to transfer.

The biases associated with community college educations have no basis in reality. The fact that many students do not have the opportunity to begin at a four-year university does not mean the quality of their education is inferior. According to several studies, most educators at community colleges have the same, if not better, credentials as those at universities.

Think of it this way: There are two doctors available to treat you. One of them has graduated from a prestigious university and carries all of those beautiful certificates to adorn his wall and tell you how smart he is.

But, you discover that throughout his academic career, the highest GPA he carried was a 2.8. The other doctor attended community college and then transferred all the way to up to medical school, graduating at the top of the class with a 3.95 GPA.

Which doctor do you want to treat you?

When my life is on the line, I want the doctor that worked hard and learned everything he could to be a better physician, not the one who skated by because he could.

Don't you?

CampusView

What could be better at Valley College?

PHOTOS BY DAN VILLASENOR



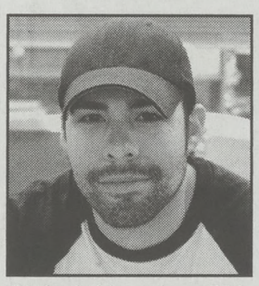
"The parking lot is horrible, they should have more and be closer to the buildings."
-Ashley Boehlefeld
Acting, 19



"The bathrooms are really dirty. If I could improve one thing ... it would be the maintenance."
-Maria Kozlov
Communications, 20



"[I would improve] the capacity of the classrooms; they are too crowded."
- Mateo Lara
Architecture, 21



"A bad thing about Valley is the professors [are] past due their time; we are not getting good education from them."
- Rayn Mercuri
Broadcasting and A.J., 28

The staff of The Valley Star would like to thank its readers for all the letters sent in this semester.

MORE LETTERS ONLINE: WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Real "Fact of the Matter"

In response to the imperceptive letter written about me, I would like to say that I, Theresa Chavez, have no "profound contempt" toward the Armenian nationality or ANY nationality for that matter. As a person of faith, I believe we are all created equally. My quote from the April 27th issue was completely taken out of context. Again I said, "…I FELT like there was a mafia surrounding me." And to this day, I stand by what I said and let me make it clear why.

On the day of April 20, 2005 at about 6:30 p.m., I was campaigning, when I noticed that one of Nelli's campaign helpers was illegally addressing voters, which was in violation of a rule in the election code: "There will be no campaigning or distributing of campaign materials within 50 feet of polling areas…" Thinking that maybe she was not aware, I approached her and simply alerted her that what she was doing was illegal. She snapped at me and shouted, "Mind your own business and worry about your own campaign!" It was then that Nelli, and two more of her helpers surrounded me. Nelli then said repeatedly to my face that "Theresa you're just jealous!" This from a person who is "proud, hardworking, and passionate..." as also stated in the letter. These verbal attacks were completely unnecessary and I felt overpowered and victimized, as if I had been surrounded by a mafia.

The real "fact of the matter" is that life is not a game. Life is a series of events, whether good or bad, it's how we deal with them that determine our character, and what we learn from these experiences is what makes us grow as a person. I have no regrets, I am proud to say that I campaigned with dignity and honesty. I'm appalled that adults were behaving so immaturely and unprofessionally. As a 17-year old, I've learned so much from this election experience, I've learned to deal with animosity and I've learned to get over it. Please, let's all be adults about this, learn, reconcile, and get over it! If you choose not to, that is your business… but seriously, you really need to consider growing up.

THERESA CHAVEZ
ASU FINE ARTS COMMISSIONER
FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

We Watch the Watchmen

I am writing in response to your article, "How FCC'd Up Is This?" Your readers may be interested to know that a new resource for parents and TV fans, TV Watch, has formed to deal with exactly the issues your article raised. TV Watch supports educating viewers about existing tools such as ratings and parental controls as alternatives to government regulation of television content.

TV Watch is a broad coalition made up of members from across the political spectrum. Together we oppose more government in our homes and encourage personal responsibility. Parents need clear information to manage what their kids watch, but we also need solutions based on common sense, personal taste and personal values.

TV Watch's commitment to individual responsibility reflects the views of most Americans. A bi-partisan survey conducted this spring found that 85 percent of Americans want to exercise personal choice over what they watch on television and not have the government regulate what they view. And 80 percent of those who say they often see things they feel should not have been aired also say that some people will always be able to find something on the television or radio that offends them. But the sensitivities of a few should not dictate the choices for everyone else. TV Watch couldn't agree more.

Over the next few months, your readers will see education initiatives led by TV Watch to help viewers make the right choices at home.

To learn more about tools parents can already use today, check out www.televisionwatch.org.

JIM DYKE
TV WATCH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Well, the Armenians Sure *Can* Mobilize Voters

I have been hearing so much about the ASU elections this year and I fail to understand what the big deal is. Yes, every Armenian who ran for an office got pretty much elected but is it their fault if Armenians are much more organized and they can mobilize voters?

This is for all of those who complained about the "Armenian Mafia" and officers getting elected just because of their race. Instead of complaining about that, why don't you mobilize voters like they did?

If Armenians want to be politically active, we do NOT have the right to stop them. Instead of trying to stop them, get others involved if you are worried about the Armenian influence on a government that is supposed to represent 18,000 diverse students.

Speaking of students, a comment [in] the staff editorial in the 9th issue [pointed out that] Adam Park, our probable future president, received only 78 votes, which is 0.0043 of the Valley population. There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics!!!

If you use the same method, then Nelli was voted [for] by only 1.7% of the entire population. That's 0.017 of the population. You should only count the people who actually voted. All 18,000 students did NOT vote. Adam got 13% votes and that number doesn't look so bad compared to 0.43%.

ASHAR ALI
MATH LAB

FOR THE RECORD

[May 18, 2005] The Valley Star mistook the Broadcasting Department as an independent department, but it is in fact part of the Media Arts Department.

[May 18, 2005] LaGina Phillips misstated that Ford and Marni Roosevelt's son who works with "People for the American Way," is named Jon. His name is Evan.

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Want to get involved with the award winning campus newspaper?

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For those interested, call adviser Bill Dauber at 947-2574

'Soldiers'

continued from page 1

ber that Mother's Day began as a war protest in 1870.

Having witnessed devastation of both human life and the economy during America's Civil War, suffragette Julia Ward Howe (composer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic") rallied women to rise up and oppose war in all its forms on "Mother's Day for Peace."

Castro, who said her son was a hero before he went to Iraq, wears a pin with space for a number that has been erased and rewritten over and over, representing the soldiers killed in action since the start of the war in Iraq.

She said she wants the numbers to stop going up, to prevent another mother from opening the door to find a soldier in full military dress telling her, " the center of her universe is gone."

As of May 24, the number on Vicky Castro's pin had been changed to 1,644.

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Singer/Songwriter: MARIA BUTTERLY
Irish Actor: REDMOND GLEESON
Irish Actor: THOMAS MacGREEVY
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WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, May 25

LAVC Jazz Ensemble
Woody James, director
11:30 a.m.
Music Room 112

Thursday, May 26

LAVC College Choir, Chamber Singers and Student Honors Recital
Michael Arshagouni and Jennifer Kelly, conductors
11:30 a.m.
Music Recital Hall

Friday, May 27

Film Release
"Madagascar"
Dir: Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
Animation, Adventure

Film Release
"The Longest Yard"
Dir: Peter Segal
Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds
Comedy

Saturday, May 28

An Evening of Irish Love & Lyrics
7:30 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
General Admission: $15
Students: $10

Saturday, June 4

The Mars Volta
6:30 p.m.
The Greek Theatre
$29

Sunday, June 5

Choral and Orchestra Concert
Jennifer Kelly, director
Gaelic Symphony by Amy Beach
Love Songs by Libby Larsen
7:00 p.m.
Mainstage Theatre
Presale: $10; $15 at the door

CAMPUS CLUBS

Monday:

ASA
Armenian Student Association
Meeting Place: CC 201
Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
President: Gayane Markosyan
(818) 438-9825

BSU
Black Student Union
Meeting Place: FL 112
Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
President: Crystal Willis
BSU_lavc@yahoo.com

DANCE
Meeting Place: North Gym,Dance Studio
Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
President: Zerline Webb
(818) 231-3971

Wednesday:

M.E.Ch.A
Meeting Place: FL 111
Time: 2:30 p.m.
President: Erika Meraz
(818) 985-7041

VETERANS CLUB
Fraternal Society of Veterans
Meeting Place: CC 205
Time: 1 p.m.
President: Lauren Ollison
(818) 487-9695

HILLEL
Meeting Place: Monarch Square
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
President: David Blaustein
(818) 257-4660

Thursday:

GRACE ON CAMPUS
Meeting Place: Bungalow 9
Time: 7:30 p.m.
President: Jeremiah Main
(818) 913-0966

Nothing Can Kill These Radio Stars



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR
THE "MATT"INEE - Broadcasting 22 student Matt Fine gets in the groove for his "West Side Funkified" show from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays on Valley College radio station KVCM. Valley is the only Los Angeles community college with a station on campus.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since its antenna broke a couple years ago, Valley College's KVCM has been broadcasting over Adelphia's Public Access channel 25, proving that video doesn't kill these radio stars.

As the only on-campus radio station in the Los Angeles Community College District, student-run KVCM covers the greater East San Fernando Valley – a 90,000-person strong market – and airs about 20 regular shows weekly, one for each Broadcasting 22 student. The station that's been at Valley since the 1960s covers everything from sports to Spanish rock.

"As long as we follow the FCC rules, we can do anything we want," said station co-manager Maggie Hasbun. "You get to work hands-on."

According to student and co-manager Denise Mendez, the station's largest obstacle is its lack of funding. With the Broadcasting Club provides more than 50 percent of funds with the help of ASU for the station, the students are still lacking proper equipment for broadcasting.

Replacing the antenna would cost the department thousands of dollars and the hiring of a full-time technician, who would have to monitor and maintain the antenna, which, according to Hasbun, is out of the department's budget. After arrangements fell through with multiple broadcasting companies, the station's current resting spot as a television broadcast on Adelphia provides a home to the students' shows.

Broadcasting Club President Jeff Nakamura, who hosts a Japanese underground rock show Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., said he's deeply involved because "I wanted to get the music out to people."

Nakamura encourages students interested in having their own radio show, learning to operate the switchboard or just having fun to take Radio Broadcasting 10, the prerequisite to Broadcasting 22, Radio/Television Activities.

Mendez said that the Broadcasting 22 students who run the station take their work very seriously: "It takes discipline and work ethic."

Mendez hopes to join the many alumni who have taken skills learned at KVCM into the workforce, including Power 106's Kool-Aid and Jeff Garcia.

Every Broadcasting 22 student is scheduled a one-hour time-slot to host his or her own show and the content is up to them. From talk shows to classic rock and Hip-Hop to Japanese underground rock, every student can find the right show for them, according to Nakamura.

KVCM can be heard on Adelphia's channel 25 live Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Bodies Moving" Moves Audience

■ **Sept. 11 remembrance is highlight of Dance Moving Forward Festival.**

BY ANNA GOLDBERG
STAFF WRITER

A tribute to one of the most tragic events in the U.S. history moved some audience members to tears in a dance performance that brought back memories of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Bodies Moving," a dance showcase presented by Valley College and The Dance Moving Forward Festival took place at the Valley's Main Stage Theater Saturday, attracting a full house.

There were 12 dance numbers ranging from classical to modern, from ballet and Jazz to hip-hop and in some instances, combined them into one performance uniting all the styles and offering the audiences an opportunity to experience them all at once.

Between the performances, film clips, including some of the crowded subways in Japan, were shown from Ron Fricke documentary, "Baraka" that further explored the theme of Bodies Moving.

Although there were a lot of great performances the most moving piece of the show was "The 88th Floor," choreographed by David Wilson and titled for the tragic events of Sept. 11.

The piece began with the projection of the World Trade Center followed by the dancers entering the stage with their shadows appearing on the projection, joining the people already on film.

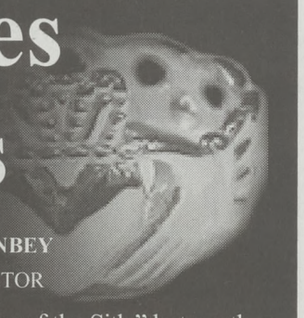
The music, composed by Trent Reznor, started to quietly play in the background.

Once the film went black and the music got louder, the dancers began to portray people in their place of work, pretending to answering phones or typing on the computer. Then one by one the dancers come closer to the end of the stage staring into the distance with horrified looks on their faces.

The next moment the World Trade Center was once again projected on the screen but this time with the cloud of dust surrounding the 88th floor of the first tower right after the first plane hit. The performance ends with the shot of "We'll never forget" banner that was put up in New York as a tribute.

Unfortunately this extremely emotional piece, and an obvious show closer, was placed in between two hip-hop numbers disrupting the flow of the show.

Irish Series Concludes



BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

It's not quite as heralded as "Revenge of the Sith," but another series from a land far, far away wraps up this weekend at Valley College: The Saturday Night Irish Music Series.

The pot o' gold at the end of the Kerry Records' rainbow will appear at the Music Recital Hall in the form of episode IV: "An Evening of Irish Love and Lyrics."

Valley will be as green as the emerald isle as Maria Butterly, Kathleen Keane, Redmond Gleeson and Thomas MacGreevy return for an evening of music and dance, as well as readings from Irish greats Joyce, Yeats, Wilde and Moore.

Keane's talent on the violin, joined by Butterly's dynamic voice, together with Gleeson and MacGreevy's spoken word talents once again promise to bring the luck of the Irish to all who attend.

An Evening of Irish Love and Lyrics: Music Recital Hall, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $15, Students $10—available at the door, for more information call: (818) 784-3805. Tickets are also available online at: www.kerryrecords.com.

Valley Trauma Center Helps All Affected by Assaults

■ **Valley students among volunteers at only trauma center in area with a 24-hour hotline for sexual assault victims.**

continued from page 1

Valley student Jonathan Vickburg was inspired to volunteer at the center after Weiss spoke to his sociology class. Becoming a rape crisis advocate will help earn him an A in the course, but the lesson goes beyond a grade.

"This affects me personally, said Vickburg at the fundraiser. "As a male [I have] to reach out and educate people."

"We can't solve it without men. Men are not the enemy," Weiss said, adding that the center also works with the husbands and significant others of survivors.

Counseling services help survivors to overcome the shame connected with the assault, which often has victims wondering if they brought the attack on themselves. Working with a survivors' support group is also important; that the center sees more than 1,200 victims of sexual abuse each year, ranging from ages 5 to 100, said Weiss.

The therapies used to help such varied victims may differ but the goals are the same, she said: "Incorporate a new sense of what and who they can be and do with their lives."

In the safety of a playroom filled with games, toys and colorful kid-size tables and chairs, play, art and puppet therapy are some of the techniques the center's staff uses to work with children who have been sexually abused.

"We always send children home with a teddy bear they have picked out," Weiss said.

Life for survivors is never the same after a rape. In a sense, said Weiss, they died at the assault: there is a loss of innocence, safety and who they thought they were. She said, "Being able to go back to life as you know it has ended. You [just] want your life to be normal."

Along the walls of the center are framed posters representing "Women of Hope" – images of powerful women. Above those hang hand-painted T-shirts from a "clothesline project" at a recent event. The shirts bear all manner of slogans concerning sexual assault, like, "She had a voice—She was scared." The artists are survivors of rape and their voices can be heard loud and clear in the words on each shirt.

Survivor Aileen Mahoney spoke out at the 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' fundraiser, thanking the center for being there when she needed help.

"The center helped me sleep," said Mahoney. "[To] live in a world without fear."

Although the circumstances are frequently dire, the volunteers at the center are equally thankful to those they help.

One counselor who has been at the center for more than two-years, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said, "I feel like I am a part of something necessary and important. In taking on this challenge, I have witnessed tragedy but the healing I have seen makes it all worthwhile."

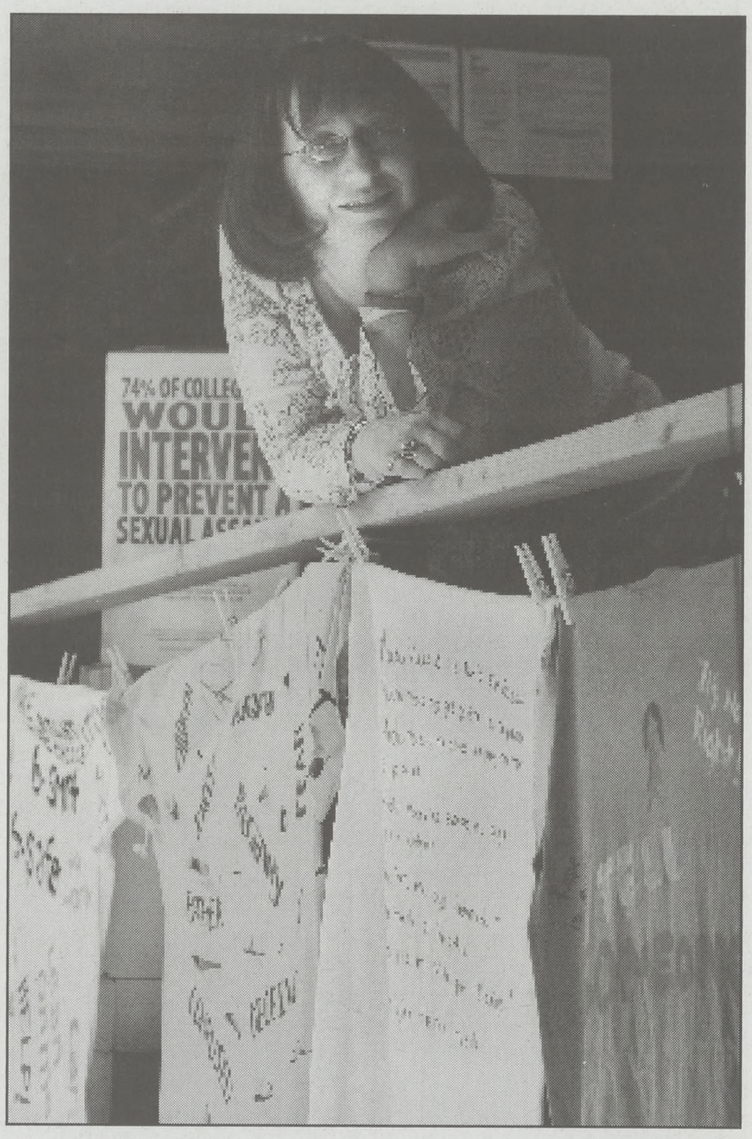
Volunteer Specialist Frances Shahnazarian said, "The impact of what one person can do for another person—there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

The center's next volunteer training program will begin on July 8; the 60-hour state-certified training is required to become a rape crisis advocate. The center is currently especially seeking bilingual trainees.

For more information on helping survivors of sexual assault contact Frances Shahnazarian, Volunteer Specialist: (818) 753-5330 ext. 206.

Valley Trauma Center: 7116 Sophia Avenue, Van Nuys CA 91406 24-hour Hotlines: San Fernando Valley (818) 886-0453 and Santa Clarita Valley (661) 253-0258.

Go to: www.valleytraumacenter.org for more information about the Center and important links to other resources.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR
SHIRTS OF HOPE - Jae Weiss, Valley College alumna and director of prevention education at the Valley Trauma Center in Van Nuys, is part of a staff dedicated to helping victims of sexual abuse. Several Valley students volunteer at the center.

Spring 2005 Final Examination Schedule

May 31-June 6

Classes meeting one day per week, including evening classes, will have their finals at the first regular class meeting on or after May 30.
Classes meeting less-than-semester-length will have their final exams at the last class meeting of the class.

Tuesday, May 31	Final Exam Time
Class time: 6:30 TTh	6:30-8:30
Class time:9:40 TTh or TThF	9:30-11:30
Class time: 1:00 TTh or TThF	12:30-2:30

Wednesday, June 1	Final Exam Time
Class time:8:00/8:15 MTWTh or MW or MWF	8:00-10:00
Class time:11:20 MTWTh or MW or MWF	10:30-12:30
Class time:2:20/2:40 MTWTh or MWF	1:00-3:00

Thursday, June 2	Final Exam Time
Class time:8:00/8:15 TTh or TThF	8:00-10:00
Class time:11:20 TTh or TThF	10:30-12:30
Class time:1:45 TTh or TThF	1:00-3:00

Monday, June 6	Final Exam Time
Class time:6:30/6:45 MW or MTWTh	6:30-8:30
Class time:9:40 MTWTh or MW or MWF	9:30-11:30
Class time:1:00 MTWTh or MW or MWF	12:30-2:30

'Summer'

continued from page 1

"In general students need to be more cautious," said Fay Dea, counseling professor. "Each course moves almost three times as fast as those that are offered during fall or spring semesters. Students might take classes that are hard to handle in five weeks and they will end up failing or barely passing."

Dea recommends that students planning to take summer classes stay away from subjects like English and Math. She said that although it might be appealing to finish a class in five weeks, students should be aware that the increased workload might jeopardize their grades.

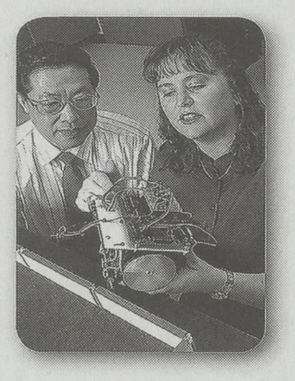
Students may enroll in classes online at www.lavc.edu or by calling (818) 988-2222, (213) 689-8888, (310) 605-0505 or (323) 226-1999. Valley will also be offering free parking to the students attending the summer sessions.

California State University
Northridge

College of Engineering & Computer Science

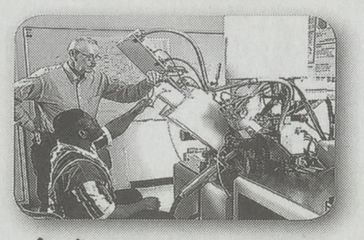
Offering hands-on career oriented education

My degree from Northridge in Industrial and Systems Engineering has been the foundation of my success as an engineer, CEO and Entrepreneur. I could not have done it without CSUN.
Mory Ejabat ('76, '79)
Co-Founder,
Chairman & CEO
Zhone Technologies



One of the most important tools to be successful in our technologically advancing world is an excellent engineering foundation. The outstanding program at CSUN afforded me the opportunity to develop my engineering skills which became the foundation that allowed me to contribute to our nation's most exciting endeavor: Space Exploration.
Scott "Doc" Horowitz ('78)
Astronaut, Director, Space Transportation & Exploration
ATK Thiokol Inc.

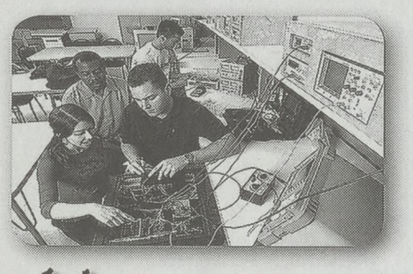
We have five graduates and three interns from CSUN at our plant, doing engineering work in electronics and mechanics. They are all, without exception, very competent and have contributed significantly to the company's growth.
Dimitri S. Dimitri
Founder & President
Delta Tau Data Systems, Inc.



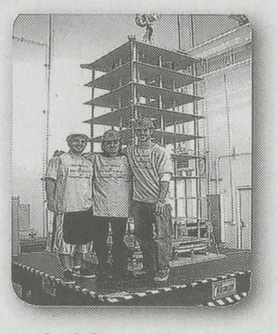
My engineering education at CSUN provided the knowledge and resources required to develop unique solutions to real world needs in our High Technology Businesses.
Sheldon Malchicoff ('78)
Founder, Chairman & CEO
Data Exchange Corporation

From my first job interview, where I was asked to go to the blackboard and solve a fluids problem, to my first Board of Directors Meeting where we discussed a product development strategy; this outstanding Engineering Program gave me the tools I needed.
Robert Behl ('69)
Medical Device Entrepreneur
Founder & CEO
Percutaneous Systems, Inc.





One of our Software Engineering Center's top recruits in 2004 is a graduate of CSUN.
Neal Gaborno
Senior Manager
Software Engineering
Raytheon Company

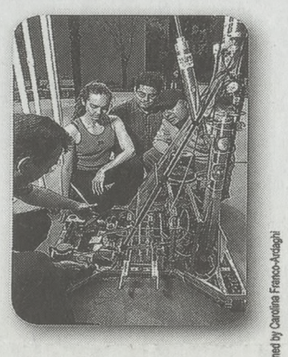


The CSUN alumni here at Shell Solar are invaluable to our company's success. They have excellent hands-on knowledge, coupled with the engineering theory on how things work. They are good team members and are hard workers. We are lucky to have them.
Theresa Jester ('79)
Senior Director, Engineering & Operations
Shell Solar Industries, LLP

My experience with the Co-Op students and the graduates of CSUN has been outstanding. Across the board, the students have demonstrated maturity, perseverance, knowledge, and enthusiasm. They all have made significant contributions.
Tom Sundling
President & CEO
I.T.S. Corporation



I have had the opportunity of working with and supervising three CSUN engineering students from the time they were Interns/Co-Ops to full employees. These students were well-prepared, highly motivated, and well-rounded as individuals. Because these students were quite knowledgeable and had such good work ethics, my company is expanding its use of interns and Co-Ops from Cal State Northridge.
Gary Mallaley
Program Director, Fiber Optic Gyro Programs
Navigation Systems Division
Northrop Grumman Corporation



Visit *http://www.csun.edu/~ecsdean/appinfo.html* or your Transfer Center

Designed by Caroline Franco-Ardaghi

advertisement

Loan Consolidation Benefits College Graduates

Recent grads must act before July 1 to secure historically low interest rates

If you're like most students, chances are you'll be leaving school with thousands of dollars in student loan debt. Although making monthly student loan payments while starting out on your own can be difficult, consolidation can help.

Consolidation is one of the smartest ways for college graduates to manage student loan debt - but it is critical to act quickly. Time is running out to lock in one of the lowest interest rates in history. Rates are likely to rise on July 1 - only three months from now.

The Federal Consolidation Loan Program allows graduates (or parents with PLUS loans) to combine all eligible federal student loans into a single new loan. This new consolidated loan has a fixed interest rate and extended repayment terms that can significantly lower monthly payments. Congress established the Federal Loan Consolidation Program so graduates can take advantage of one low, fixed rate and take more time to pay back their loans. This means that cash-strapped graduates with comparably low entry-level salaries can take smaller chunks out of their paychecks for loan payments - and have more money left over to pay rent and other necessary bills.

Additionally, graduates who consolidate within the first six months after graduation - before their loans enter repayment - can reduce their interest rate by up to an additional 0.6 percent[1]. Although a 0.6 percent decrease may seem small, it can potentially save thousands of dollars in interest over time.

This year, there's even more reason for graduates to act quickly. Over the past several years, rates have fallen to historic lows. That's about to change, however, as this year's rates are expected to rise by two percentage points or more. **It is important to take immediate action before federal student loan interest rates are adjusted on July 1.**

The Congressional Budget Office projects that student loan rates for the 2005-2006 school year rate will jump by at least two percentage points, to about 5.5 percent, and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future*. This potential increase would be reflected in both Stafford and PLUS loan rates.

Graduates who consolidate before these new, higher rates take effect on July 1 can avoid the rate increase and save thousands by consolidating today and locking in unprecedented low interest rates for the life of their loan.

"According to the Congressional Budget Office, federal student loan interest rates are projected to rise this July and each July thereafter in the near future," Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy wrote in a Bentley College Vanguard editorial March 10. "According to the Congressional Research Service, the fixed interest rate benefit today is worth over $5,000 for the typical, new student borrower over the life of his or her college debt."

*For more information, call a loan consultant at **1-866-311-8076** or visit **www.lavalleystar.com/studentloan** to see if you qualify for these savings.*

Consolidation Benefits
• Lower monthly payments. Extended repayment terms can cut your monthly student loan payments in half and help you make ends meet. You can use the extra money for necessities like housing, transportation or credit card debt.
• Fixed Interest Rate. Your existing student loans have a variable rate that could rise over time. By consolidating, you'll lock in a fixed interest rate for the life of your loan, saving you money by giving you immunity from any future rate increases.
• One Convenient Payment. You'll have only one student loan payment to make each month to one lender.
• Borrower Benefits[2]. You may be able to lower your fixed interest rate by up to an additional 1.25 percent by making your payments electronically and on-time.

Act Quickly - Two Reasons
If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated), you should consolidate before your loans enter repayment. If you do so, you can receive an additional 0.06 percent rate reduction. Also, loan interest rates are expected to rise on July 1. Apply early to ensure you lock in today's historically low rates before they increase in July.

It's Free
It costs nothing to consolidate - there are no fees, no credit checks and no prepayment penalties.

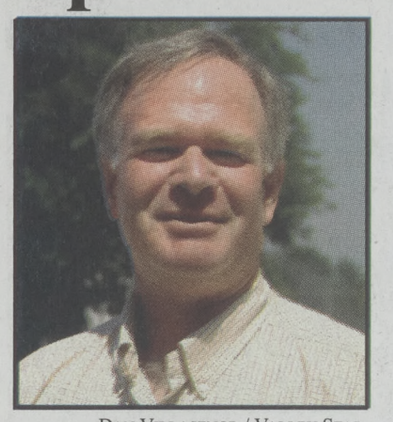
Are You About to Graduate?
Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). SLCP will provide you with additional information about consolidation and will contact you after graduation to remind you to apply early. SLCP will make sure you don't have to worry about missing out on the benefits of consolidation. It's free and there's no obligation.

While visiting the paper online, be sure to sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

* Stephen Burd, "Combatants Alter Tactics in Fight Over Student Loan Consolidation," The Chronicle of Higher Education, April 1, 2005.
1 In order to receive grace rates, your application must be received prior to the first grace end date on the loans being consolidated
2 Lender(s) and servicer(s) reserve the right to modify, extend or discontinue this program at any time without notice. Changes to this program, if any, will not affect loans that previously qualified for these or any other benefits if held by a CFS lender. All loan rate reductions and other borrower benefits terminate upon either a loan default or failure to continue to meet a borrower benefit qualification. Please call for details on our current benefit offering(s).

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Sports Information Director Steps Down After 11 Years



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

PASSING THE TORCH - Sports Information Director Dale Beck passes the torch after 11 years.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

After calling 125 games, sending out 1,500 faxes and watching the baseball team go from worst to first, Dale Beck is leaving his job as sports information director after 11 years.

He leaves the job effective June 30. His replacement, 22-year-old Bob Teichmann, has served as Beck's assistant for more than two years.

"[Teichmann] is very qualified for the position," Beck said who has been the Monarchs' football announcer for the past 25 years.

"Well, it was mostly [due] to professional obligations," said Beck, when asked why he was stepping down. "It also included my position in job training, and some freelance work, as I have been more involved in them."

Assistant sports information director Bob Teichmann will take over for Beck and will start July 1.

Beck stated that Teichmann is qualified and believes that the 22 year old will do a great job.

"He's worked with us before doing game programs, and I feel like he has a lot of potential," said Beck.

Teichmann said that he was excited to be given the opportunity and hoped to make successful changes.

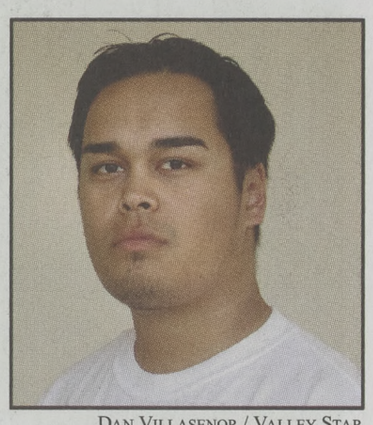
"I want to give the athletic program a new feel," Teichmann said. "With the use of the Internet and other resources, I want to improve the program and give it an updated feel."

Though Beck is stepping down, he will continue to remain full-time on campus working with the job training program.

"There are always going to be regrets, but I'm glad with the relationships I've built over the years," said Beck. "I'm still going to be here [on campus], so I want to help out where I can."

When asked, Beck explained that he wanted to be remembered as someone who had great dedication in what he did.

"I've followed great individuals such as Steve Brenner and Dennis Packer," Beck said. "[They've] set a bar for me and I hope that I've matched it in my time here."



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

STEPPING UP - Bob Teichmann steps into the postion of Sports Information Director.

Ninfo, the Heart and Soul of the Monarch Baseball Team

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

Don't ever call second baseman Robert Ninfo a quitter. The 5'10" sophomore is blunt, loud and a self proclaimed gamer. The Northridge native has gone through a lot and considers baseball a somewhat higher calling.

"I think it was God's decision for me to play baseball," said Ninfo, who began hitting off a Sparklet's water bottle with a wiffle bat before he learned how to walk. "He's given me an amazing ability and I can't thank him enough."

A Chatsworth High School alumnus, Ninfo has overcome many obstacles to get where he is now. After tearing ligaments in his leg in his third game as a senior, Ninfo realized that his journey was not going to be easy.

Enrolling at Glendale College in 2003, Ninfo left after his freshman season. "I played about half the season at there, and unfortunately I didn't see eye to eye with the head coach," said Ninfo.

Looking for a fresh start Ninfo enrolled at Moorpark College in 2004, but once again had to leave after having a run in with the team.

"After leaving Moorpark, I was ready to quit playing baseball," Ninfo said solemnly. "I was looking for a job…and than I heard from a friend that [head coach Dave Mallas] was heading the program at Valley. It was definitely a sign from God."

"It was a hard situation for him," said sophomore first baseman Matt Jordan who came over with Ninfo from Glendale College. "It's good for him to finally play a year where he's not injured or [having problems with a coach or teammate]."

"He does the dirty work that a lot of guys don't like to do," said Mallas. "He works hard as well, and that's a testament to his [earlier] playing days."

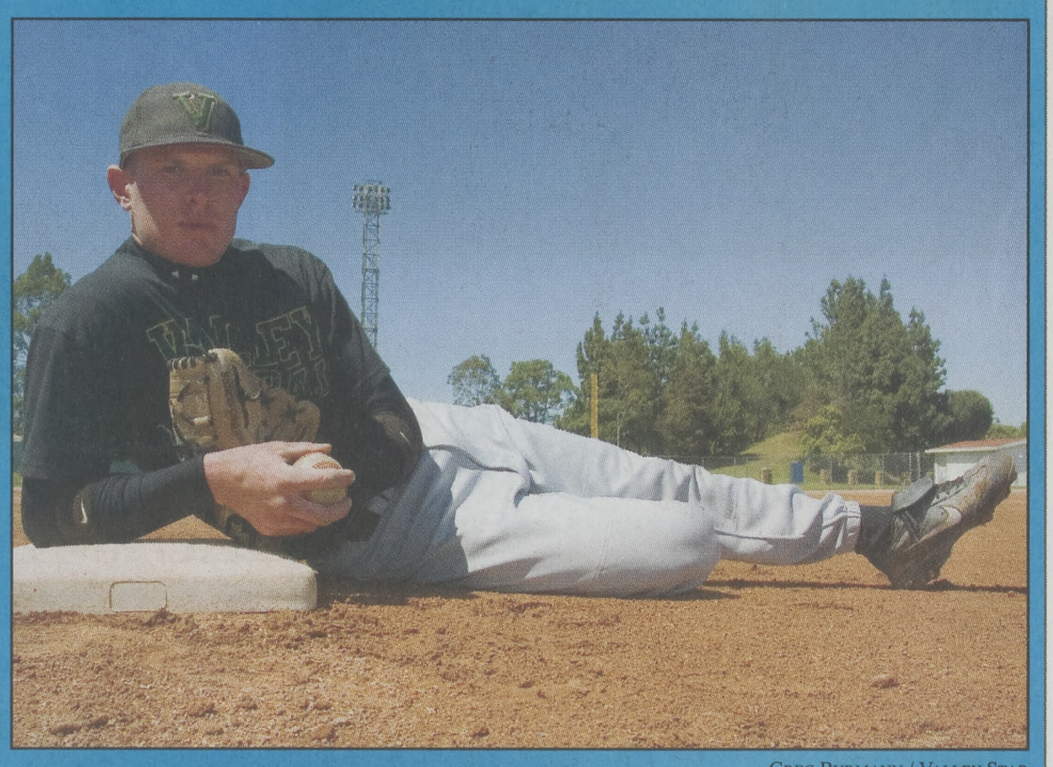
Being a vocal leader on this season's team, Mallas states that Ninfo's leadership, hard-work, and dedication has carried over to his teammates.

"He definitely brings in an intensity and edge that no one else on the team has," explained Jordan. "A lot of what he does reflects our team. He's a spark plug for us."

"I think I play the same role as anyone else on the team," said Ninfo, who has been hit by pitches 21 times this season. "Just because I'm more vocal than others doesn't make me better than them."

"My relationship with [Mallas] is probably the best relationship that I've had with a coach since my days at Chatsworth with [Chatsworth head coach Tom Meusborn]," Ninfo said.

"Our relationship and respect have grown," said Mallas. "[Ninfo] and I are working together to make him the most productive player he can be."



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

COG TO THEIR SUCCESS - Valley's second baseman Robert Ninfo helped the Monarchs to advance to post season for the first time in 11 years.

A LOOK BACK AT MONARCHS' 2004-2005 SEASON



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

FIGHTING FOR POSITION - Sophomore Aaron Johnson blocks a shot in the win 58-52 over the West Los Angeles Oilers last February. The Monarchs finished second in the Western State Conference, but fell short of the playoffs.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

REFELECTING ON THE GAME - Baseball Head Coach Dave Mallas cheers his team up after Cypress College eliminated them from the playoffs in first round earlier this month. The Monarchs finished first place in the Western State Conference with a 17-7 conference record.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

SINKING A HOOP - Forward Jennae Peoples fights to get in the playoffs against Cypress College at Valley last February. After a disappointing loss, the Lady Monarchs finished with a 14-16 record for the season.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

THE WATER IS FINE - Andy Sandoval gets a head start in the 800-meter free style relay during conference finals at Cuesta College earlier this month. Three Valley Students became All-American earlier this month including Megan Winchell, Matt Alberti, and Valentine Alberti. All medaled at the State Championship.



CYNTHIA PERRY / VALLEY STAR

TOSSING THE JAVLINE - Steven Bautista earned 7th place in the Western State Conference in javelin earlier this month with a throw of 153 feet and 1 inch. Antoinette Burton took fifth in the State Championship in high jump with a jump of 5 feet and 2 inches.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

THIS MISSION POSITION- Brecken Bronner gets down and dirty to rob the Mission Eagles last month. The Lady Monarchs were eliminated from the playoffs in the first round by Cypress College on May 8. Valley finished third in the conference with a record of 16-8.